



Global production of maize - 2023		
Source: (TRIDGE, 2024)		
Country	Production %	Volume in Million Kg
United States	29.98%	348.75B
China	23.83%	277.20B
Brazil	9.41%	109.42B
Argentina	5.08%	59.04B
India	2.90%	33.73B
Mexico	2.29%	26.63B
Ukraine	2.25%	26.19B
Indonesia	2.03%	23.56B
South Africa	1.39%	16.41B

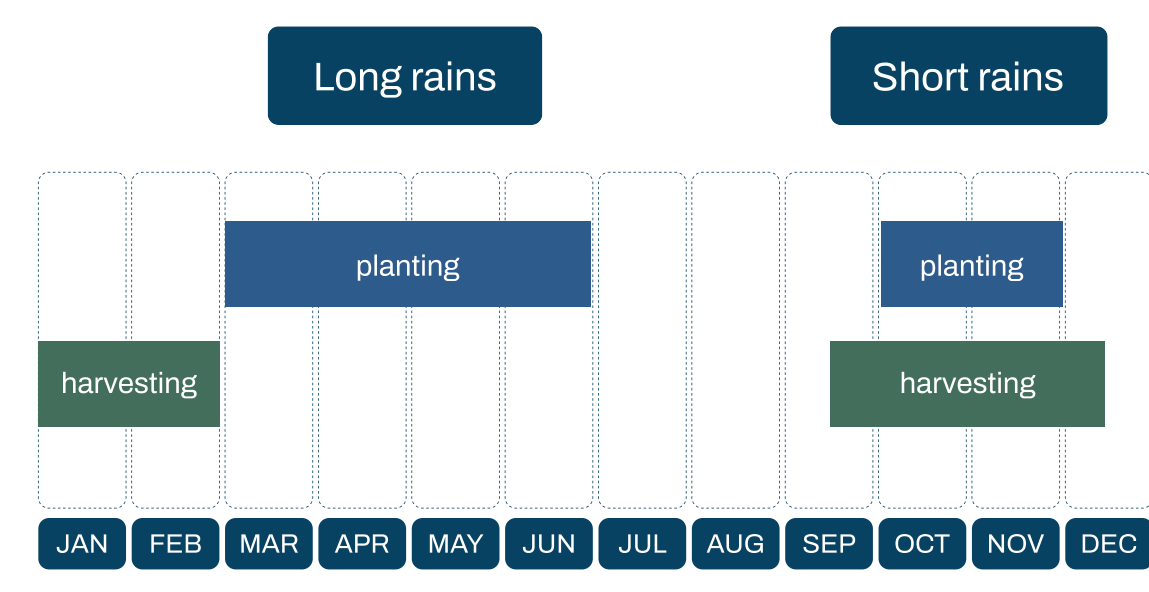
Market Overview

Approximately 3 million smallholder farmers produce 3.897 million metric tons of maize on 2.196 million hectares of land. Smallholder farmers contribute 70% to maize production, while commercial farmers contribute 30%, highlighting the significant role of smallholder farmers in this sector.

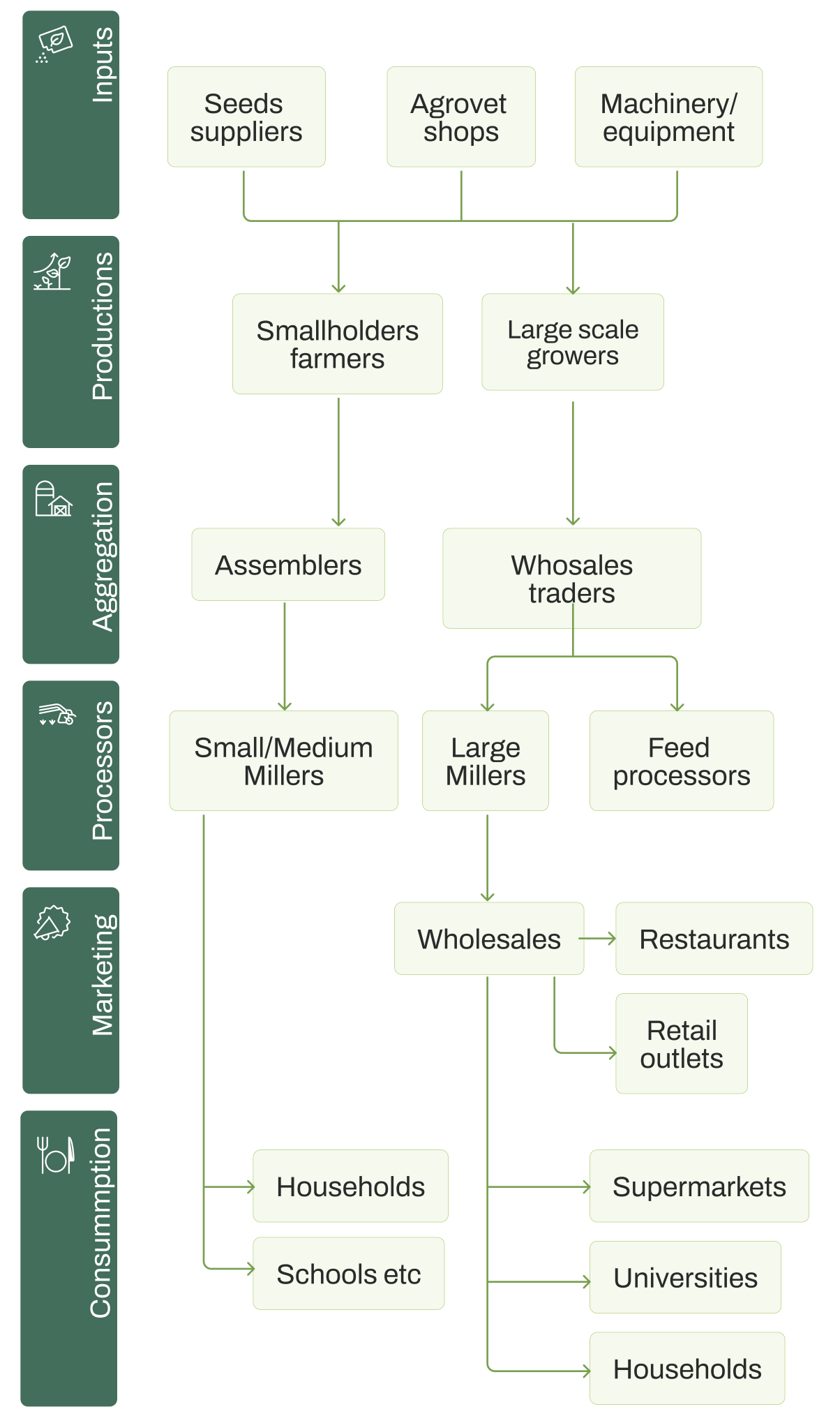
Crop Calendar

In Kenya, maize is produced from March to November. Harvesting occurs in February/March for the short-rain (SR) crop, which is a small part of the annual supply, and in June/July and November/December for the main long-rain (LR) crop.

SR harvests are common in Eastern and Coast regions, while the June/July harvest is mostly in Western, Nyanza, Coast, Eastern, and parts of Rift Valley and Central. The main maize zones in Rift Valley harvest in November-December.



Value chain



Leading maize exporters globally		
Source: (TRIDGE, 2024)		
Country	Share in export value	Export Value in \$
Brazil	27.83%	13.47B
United States	27.48%	13.3B
Argentina	12.63%	6.11B
Ukraine	10.02%	4.85B
Romania	2.89%	1.4B
South Africa	2.26%	1.09B
France	2.26%	1.09B
Poland	2.26%	1.09B
Paraguay	1.55%	748.71M
Canada	1.47%	711.07M

Top Kenya's maize export destination		
Source: (TRIDGE, 2024)		
Export Destination	Share in Export	Export Value in \$
Uganda	37.44%	69.05K
Rwanda	10.59%	19.54K
United Kingdom	10.56%	19.47K
Tanzania	9.47%	17.47K
Qatar	6.98%	12.88K
United Arab Emirates	6.84%	12.62K
South Africa	6.66%	12.28K
Netherlands	6.38%	11.76K
United States	2.60%	4.79K

Main players

Sample Inputs suppliers

Seeds

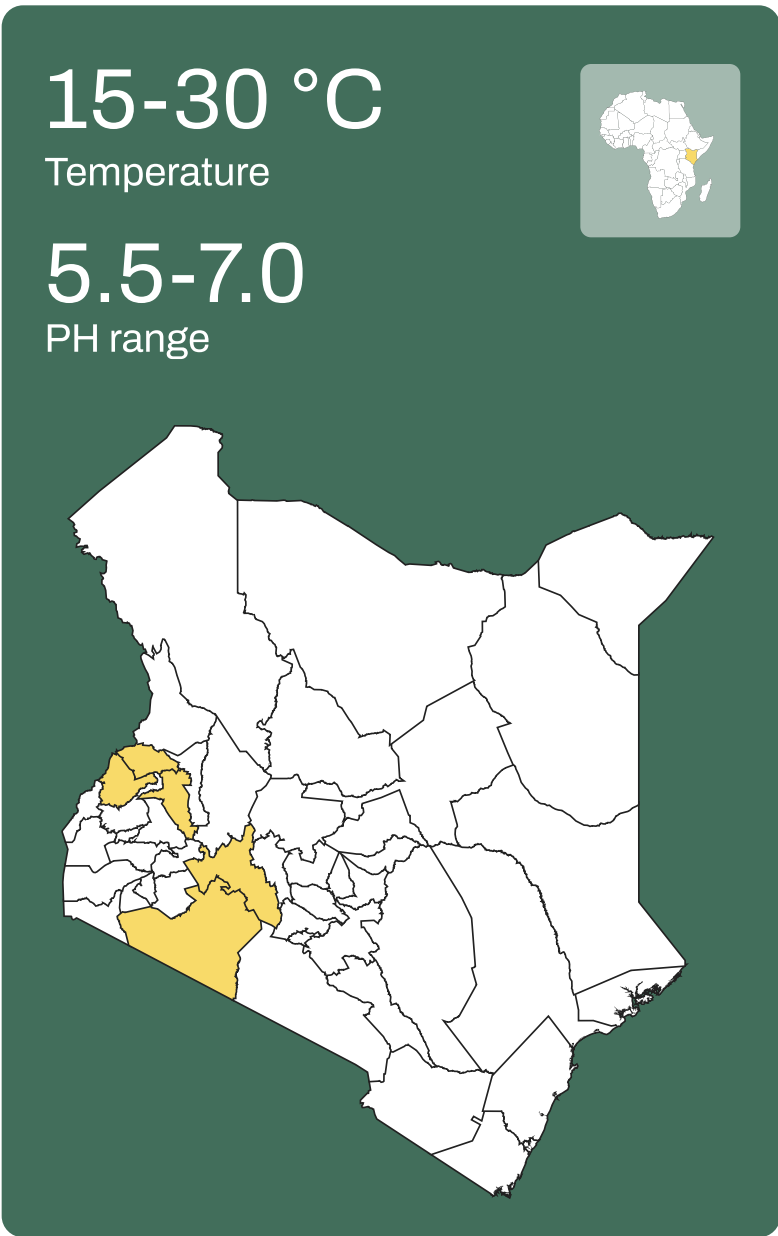
Machinery



Sustainability Financing

VC Segment	Green Finance Requirements
Processor	• Water recycling facilities • Eco-friendly packaging • Warehousing, drying, cleaning and fumigation • Transportation vehicles
Aggregate	• Increase soil testing facilities • Digital platforms for training and information sharing • Warehouse receipting system • Tree planting
Producer	• Zero tillage farming and conservation agriculture • Solar based driers to reduce post-harvest losses • Mobile solar-based driers • Development of informal seed systems • Mechanization of tillage and harvesting
Input	• Transition to organic fertilizer • Drip irrigation systems • Blended and customized fertilizers for specific regions • Supply of hermetic bags

Production Areas



Maize is highly adaptable to various climatic conditions, making it widely grown across Kenya. It can thrive in regions with high rainfall (1200-2500mm), moderate rainfall (600-1150mm), and even in areas with lower rainfall totals of 400mm.

Additionally, drought-resistant varieties can grow well in regions receiving as little as 250mm of rainfall. Maize does well in warm, deep, well aerated, and drained soils with optimal pH of 5.5-7.0 and warm temperatures of between 15-30 C.

Maize is produced in **Bungoma, Nakuru, Narok, Trans Nzoia and Uasin Gishu.**

Deforestation risk

In the five major counties where maize is cultivated, three counties are classified as high- risk deforestation counties and the remaining counties ranging from medium to low risk.

This distribution highlights the environmental challenges associated with maize farming in these regions, **emphasizing the need for sustainable agricultural practices to mitigate deforestation risks.**



Challenges and opportunities

Challenges

- **Mycotoxin contamination** especially aflatoxin.
- Limited access to **input finances.**
- **Infestation** by pests and diseases.
- **Inadequate extension services.**
- **Unreliable rainfall** due to climate change
- **Increasing cost of inputs** making cost of production unbearable for smallholder farmers.
- **Volatile maize prices.**

Opportunities

- **Development of digital platforms** for learning and information sharing.
- Introduction of **location-specific varieties** with optimum yield potential and increased availability and adoption.
- Investing in mobile **soil analysis laboratories.**
- **Increased investment** by government and private sector players in promoting the value chain to thrive through enabling policies, grants, free training, donations etc.
- **Management of post-harvest losses** through provision of harvesting, drying, fumigation and warehousing facilities.
- **Collective marketing** by farmer cooperatives.
- Provision of **mobile solar driers.**
- Widespread adoption of **cost-effective hermetic bags for household storage** and for use by aggregators.

eco.business fund

The **eco.business Fund** aims to promote business and consumption practices that contribute to the **conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of natural resources, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.** By financing business practices that preserve nature and promote biodiversity, the fund seeks investments that generate both **environmental and economic returns.** The fund primarily offers loans to qualified financial institutions, which in turn lend to eligible borrowers. These borrowers include holders of recognized certifications as well as those implementing changes that **support conservation and biodiversity.** The fund supports sustainable operations in the **agriculture, fisheries (including aquaculture), forestry, and tourism sectors.**

Contact
Finance in Motion GmbH
The Address Building, 13th floor, Muthangari Drive, Nairobi, Kenya

www.ecobusiness.fund
info@ecobusiness.fund

